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S E C R E T LAGOS 000351

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR DS/IP/ITA, DS/IP/AF, DS/ICI/PII
FBIHQ FOR CTD/WMDOU

E.O. 12958: DECL: X1.6

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [PINS](#) [PARM](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: LOST RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

Classified By: RSO J. Pelphey. Reason 1.5 (d) and (g)

1. (S) Summary: CG, LEGATT, and RSO met with Johan Bakker, Vice President of Haliburton Nigeria on 02/18/03. Mr. Bakker advised the CG that a radioactive source used in logging operations was missing. Mr. Bakker advised that the material was approximately 18.5 curries in strength and had been missing since late November or early December. Haliburton and Chevrontexaco corporate investigators had been conducting investigations, but they had not been able to determine who took the material, exactly when or where it was taken. In view of the current world situation, Haliburton was notifying the Consulate. End Summary.

2. (S) CG, LEGATT, and RSO met with Johan Bakker, Vice President of Haliburton Nigeria concerning missing radioactive material. The material was described as approximately four to five inches in length and one to one and a half inches in diameter with a strength of 18.5 curries. The radioactive material is used in the oil industry for logging operations. The material was placed in a "pig", a cylinder approximately eighteen inches in diameter and weighing ninety-four kilograms. The "pig" was then placed in a box with radioactive markings on the side.

3. (S) The radioactive material had been used in oilfield operations at a Chevrontexaco site and was supposed to be transported back to Haliburton's operational base. The "pig" was stored at Escavros in late November and transported to Warri where it was picked up for transshipment to Port Harcourt on or about December 4th. Although it is unclear when the material was taken, the driver reportedly claimed to a Haliburton investigator that the locks on the box containing the "pig" were broken when the box was picked up and placed on a flatbed truck for shipment. No other items on the flatbed were taken or disturbed during the trip.

4. (S) The flatbed stopped overnight in a village during the transit from Warri to Port Harcourt. Investigators, who have tried to interview local villagers, have been unsuccessful. Initially, Haliburton officials believed the material may have been taken for ransom, but no demands have been made. It is also believed that someone who may not know what the material is may have thrown it away. There is concern that anyone who handled the material for any length of time may have died or is critically ill. A one meter exposure for sixty-eight minutes is considered lethal according to Mr. Bakker.

5. (S) Nigerian federal, state, and local authorities have been notified of the missing radioactive material and the IAEA has been contacted. Nigerian police are continuing their investigation. Haliburton and Chevrontexaco brought in investigators from London who have assisted with their continuing investigations as well. Local populations have been offered a fifty thousand Naira (approximately 400 USD) reward for information leading to the return of the material. To date, only two attempts have been made to collect the reward and neither was considered credible.

6. (S) A report of Haliburton's attempts to recover the material along with photos of the neutron pig and shipping container has been forwarded to FBIHQ and will be forwarded to the Department.
HINSON-JONES